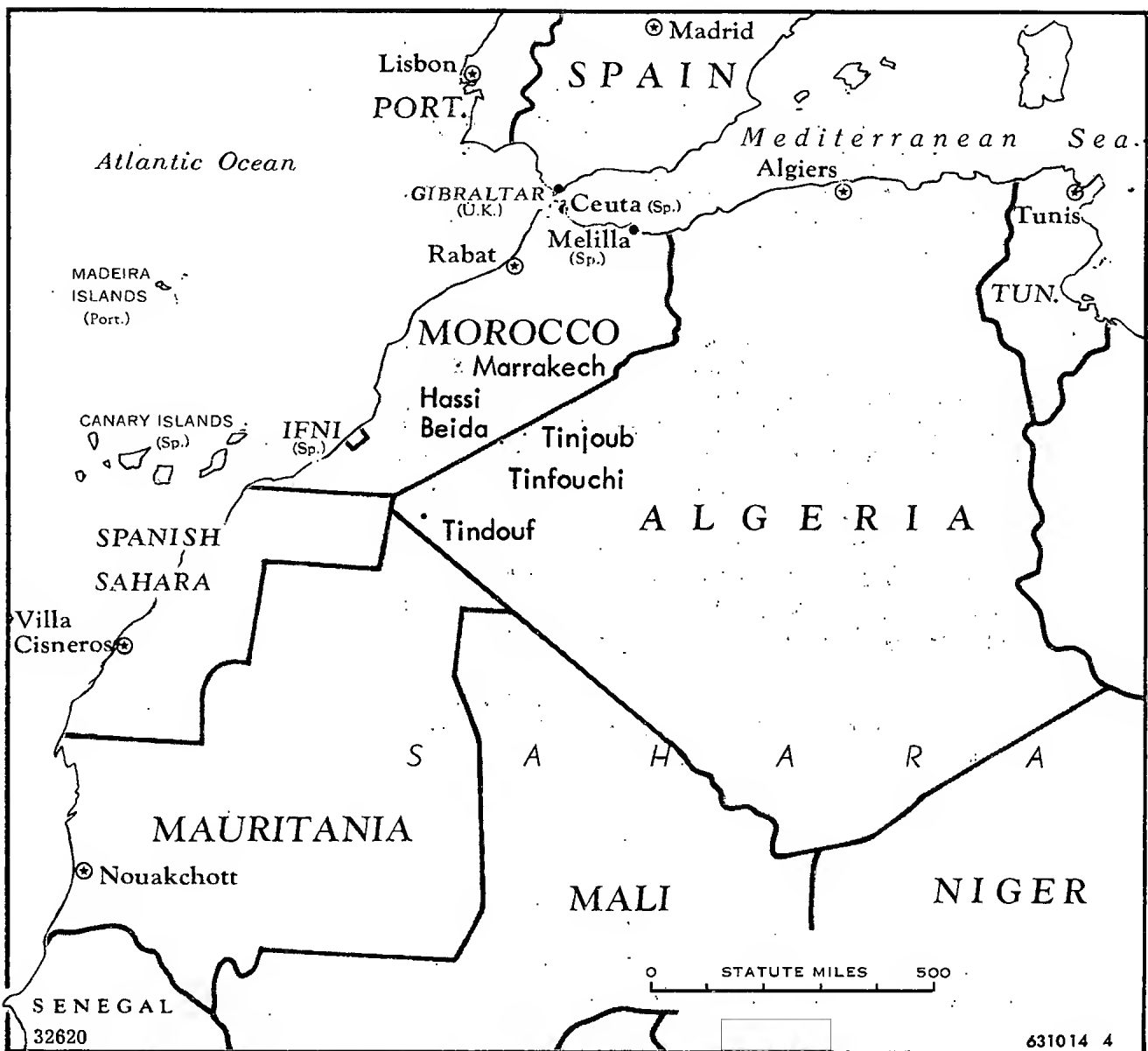


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

15 OCTOBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~



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1. Morocco-Algeria

a. The Moroccan army seems intent on reoccupying military outposts in the undemarcated Algerian border area.

b. Moroccan officials claim their army has retaken the posts of Hassi Beida and Tinjoub, which they assert the Algerian Army seized a week ago.

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c. King Hassan is reported to have agreed to attend a conference of North African leaders proposed by Bourguiba for mid-November to settle Moroccan-Algerian border difficulties. Ben Bella's reaction is not yet known.

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2. Berlin

a. Our Berlin Mission has concluded that the interference with Convoy 27 was a deliberate Soviet action, with both important tactical and political motives, which required advance Moscow clearance.

(Cont'd)

b. On the other hand, our Moscow Embassy does not believe the Soviet government would have chosen this precise moment to create trouble. Its guess is that Soviet middle-level authorities in both Germany and the USSR felt the US was stepping up its activities on the Autobahn. Embassy Moscow speculates that after clearing sizeable convoys without having them dismount on October 8 and 9, the Soviet military in Germany, possibly after a routine check with Moscow, ordered that convoys in this range should be required to dismount with resultant difficulties for Convoy 27.

c. [redacted] either the incident was provoked by local military authorities to test whether they could encroach on procedures accepted in the past or the incident arose from a genuine confusion over dismounting procedures, and the Soviet military authorities considered that the convoy was of a size which would normally dismount.

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(Cont'd)

d. Westbound Convoy 32 of dismount size was held up for thirty minutes yesterday by Soviet authorities. The convoy commander refused a Soviet demand to dismount because of rain. At the end of thirty minutes the rain ceased, the convoy dismounted, and was cleared.

e. Three convoys are scheduled for today, one for tomorrow and one for Friday. None is of dismount size.

3. Saudi Arabia -
Yemen

a. It looks as though Saudi Arabia will soon resume military aid to the Yemeni royalists.



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(Cont'd)

c. Faysal has recently voiced dissatisfaction over Egypt's failure to reduce its troops in Yemen and has threatened to return to his previous policy of aid to the royalists. Faysal may have in mind implementing this policy when the UN Observation Mission's mandate expires on 4 November.

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4. Cuba

a. Castro is accepting disaster relief from various national and international organizations but is sticking to his position not to accept aid from the American Red Cross unless it is handled by the international Red Cross organization. Havana radio continues to condemn the offer of direct US Red Cross aid as hypocritical. The Guantanamo Naval Base reports that Castro's refusal to accept direct US aid has angered the Cuban people and some members of the party organization.

(Cont'd)

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Castro may find the hurricane a convenient scapegoat for the fundamental economic problems that were already apparent before the hurricane struck.

NOTES

- A. South Vietnam The regime has avoided a showdown with organized labor by releasing Dam Sy Hien, vice president of the General Confederation of Vietnamese Labor (CVTC), who was arrested a week ago. CVTC president Tran Quoc Buu had threatened to dissolve the CVTC and call on international labor to condemn labor suppression in South Vietnam if Huu were not released by this Thursday.
- B. Uruguay [redacted] a small group of rightist army officers led by Colonel Mario Aquerrondo is plotting to overthrow the government. It seems unlikely that the army, which supports constitutional government, would follow Aquerrondo. The army might stand aside, however, because the government has not met its demands to curb Communist activity, to raise military pay and to deal with grievances of personnel. [redacted]
- C. Communist China - Japan Peiping is making a bid for increased trade relations with Japan. [redacted] the Chinese Communists have suggested the barter of Hainan iron ore for Japanese steel, a direct Tokyo-Peiping air route, and an exchange of permanent trade delegations. Similar proposals are expected to be made at the \$5 million Japanese trade fair now being held in Peiping.

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(Cont'd)

- D. Iceland The Thors government will face difficult economic and political problems after today when the present provisional seven-and-one-half percent wage increase expires. Both Communists and non-Communists are likely to press for higher wages. The Communists, who control the central labor federation, are likely to resort to prolonged labor agitation. The consequences could lead to popular dissatisfaction with the government.
- E. Burma The Ne Win government and the pro-Peiping Burma Communist Party (BCP) are reported to have agreed on terms for talks aimed at ending the party's long-time insurgency. In these talks, which probably will be long drawn out, Ne Win, according to an [] diplomatic source, has agreed to legalize the BCP, to publicize final negotiations with the party, and to guarantee the security of its leader, Thakin Than Tun.

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